

Shipton-under-Wychwood Cricket Club Back in the Premier League

Over the winter there was a significant re-organisation of the Home Counties Premier League as a number of Hertfordshire clubs left to form their own league. This has presented us with another

chance to compete at this level after our brief encounter in 2012 where we were narrowly relegated at our first attempt. Simon Hole will once again be leading the First Team, supported by Vice Captain Charlie Brain.

The Home Counties has two formats throughout the season, so the first five weeks and last four weeks are played in 50-over format; the middle nine weeks are 'timed' games, starting at 10:30am (so even more cricket to entertain you!). All fixture details will be available on our website www.shiptoncc.co.uk.

Overseas Pro Needs Home

Hopefully by the time you read this we will have signed an overseas professional for the entire season, which should increase our chances of staying in the Home Counties, as well as providing a valuable coaching resource for every player at the club, from the seniors through to the juniors. To this end subscriptions have gone up slightly this year to help cover the cost of this resource, but their presence should be beneficial to all playing members.

The one area yet to be arranged is accommodation for this player; ideally we



are looking to find them somewhere in the village to help avoid travel costs (and allow them to spend as much time as possible coaching at the ground). If anyone has a spare room and

would be interested in supporting this player for around 20 weeks over the summer, please contact our Chairman Stephen Brain on: chairman@shiptoncc.co.uk or tel: 07771 802148.

Cherwell League

As ever, our other three senior teams will be competing in the Cherwell League. Ian Lewis will be looking to take advantage of the 2nd XIs reprieve from relegation and will look to secure another season in Division 3. After securing their place in Division 8 on the last day of last season the 3rd XI will be looking to push for promotion this season, especially with the 4th XI gaining a second consecutive promotion to Division 9 last season under the stewardship of Charlie Barrett.

Could you Coach?

Thanks to the many volunteers with the youth sections both the Boys and Girls teams go from strength-to-strength, capped by both the Boys U13s and U15s winning their respective leagues in 2013. To maintain these standards with our youth we need to ensure we keep our Clubmark certification, the main

requirement is to have a certain number of coaches by ratio to the number of junior members we support. Currently we are falling short on this ratio, so if anyone would like to volunteer to go on an ECB Course and gain a certification in this field (the club will subsidise the cost) please contact Sue Sumner (sue.sumner@shiptoncc.co.uk) for more information.

Ladies' Team

In 2014 Rob Gorton, the inspiration behind our Girl's sides, is organising a Ladies' team to play mid-week games against other local sides. More information will be appearing on our website, but please get in touch if this is something you would be interested in.

Saturday 5th April

sees our annual 'get the ground ready day', an event we now perform under the NatWest CricketForce banner along with hundreds of other clubs all around the country (one of the Clubmark initiatives that our membership benefits from). If you have an hour or two (or more!) to spare on this day, from around 10am onwards, there is always plenty to do, from painting sight screens to putting up the practise nets, and as the saying goes, many hands make light work.

2014 Davidstow Village Cup

Once again we start the season wondering if we can make the national rounds of this prestigious competition, and perhaps another Lords Final. Receiving a bye in the first round we start our campaign in

2014 by hosting fierce local rivals Oxford Downs on **Sunday 11th May** - it would be great to have a large crowd so please make a note in your diary today.

100 Club

The prize draw is ongoing with just over 100 members in the draw each month. This season Deborah Reynolds is taking over the reins and we will hope to extend the membership to 150, perhaps even a 200 club (at which point we will increase the number of prizes each month accordingly). For more details please see the website www.suwcc100club.co.uk or speak to Deborah on a Friday night at the club.



Club Sponsors

We are glad to confirm that FWP Matthews are our club sponsors for another year; their continued support has enabled us to maintain standards and, their financial contribution is essential to the club's continued existence. We are looking to expand our sponsorship base, and as well as our

Fixture Card are offering some other avenues for local businesses to support us and gain exposure to the local community. If you would like more information, please contact me.

We would also like to thank our many Vice Presidents for their continued support; your donations are another vital source of income to the club and without you we just would not be able to operate to the standards we do - thank you!

Justin Hemming

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